

carp at the acts of this government, talk of its corruption and oppression, and say that we should recognize the Southern Confederacy which would break up and destroy this nation, and which, in itself is treason, and yet no arrests, no notice is taken of it by the government. I say that a government that is so humane, so kind, should at least receive the honest support in words, if not in deeds, of every man in Maryland.

But the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) says that *he is a good Union man*, and that had not Gov. Hicks been at the head of State affairs in 1861, this war would have been avoided. Of course the gentleman is a *good Union man*, so is every other gentleman of the opposition who voted *against* a vote of thanks to General Grant and our Maryland soldiers. The rebels never achieve a victory but that the gentlemen are sad, sorrowful and dejected; and when they are defeated by our victorious and brave armies, they are always half beside themselves for joy! How can they help being good Union men? If the oath they have taken, to entitle them to seats in this Convention, does not make them good Union men, then there is no panacea for their disease. And as for Gov. Hicks having been the cause of this war, and the charge that if he had not been at the head of affairs in 1861, the country, by a wise and vigorous policy, might have been saved, I would ask the gentleman if he knows the record of Gov. Hicks? Is he acquainted with the history of 1861? Does he know who took the control of this State on the 19th of April, 1861; who raised troops to hurl back "the *Northern horde*," advancing to protect the Capital of our country; who blocked the port of Baltimore, and laid an embargo, and restricted trade, and levied contributions on the people, and took possession of Gov. Hicks, and threatened his life, because he would not consent to burn down bridges, tear up railroad tracks, and uproot telegraph polls? Does he know who did all this?

Mr. CLARKE. Governor Hicks signed the order.

Mr. THOMAS. No, sir; never. I state it as a fact, for on the morning of the 20th of April I was present in the office of Mayor Brown—for they had taken possession of Governor Hicks and carried him bodily from the Fountain Hotel to the private office of Mayor Brown—I was present when Coleman Yellott, Robert L. McLane and others of that ilk, came in, and asked Governor Hicks to sign the order for the burning of the railroad bridges, and destruction of the tracks and telegraphs. Governor Hicks refused, and told them that so far as he was concerned, although he had no authority, he would do all he could to prevent it. And when General Charles Edgerton came in and told Governor Hicks that he had just given orders to tear up the railroad tracks and cut down the tele-

graph poles, Governor Hicks raised up his hands and said—"My God! gentlemen, what is it you have done? I have given no such orders. There were gentlemen present here, when Mr. McLane and Mr. Yellott came in here, and they heard what my opinions were on that subject. You have done it on your own responsibility." And not only was I there, but other gentlemen were there, who will testify to these facts and vindicate the character of Governor Hicks.

No, sir; he never consented to those acts. They took possession of the old man; they threatened his life. I heard men in my own presence say, and I told Governor Hicks of it—"That if the damned old scoundrel went out in Monument Square that afternoon to make a speech they would send a bullet through his heart." Governor Hicks said, when he was told of that—"Gentlemen, if I can save the State from civil war and further bloodshed by going to Monument Square, I shall do so. I am an old man; I have endeavored to save my State from civil war; I have kept back the remonstrances and petitions sent by rebels from nearly every town in the State, for a meeting of the Legislature. I think I have done my duty heretofore, and if need be I am ready to die in Monument Square, or anywhere, to save my State." [Great applause from members of the Convention.]

Had that Legislature ever met in Baltimore city, Maryland would this day have been a scene of desolation and bloodshed, a hissing and a by-word, just as Virginia is to-day. But Governor Hicks called the Legislature together at Frederick city, and that was the salvation of this State, because but for the influence of the loyal people there, Maryland would this day have been out of the Union. Let gentlemen look at the record made by these "good Union men" of whom they speak, who, if they had been put in the same position that Governor Hicks held, would not only have saved the State of Maryland, but have kept all the States together. It does seem to me that when gentlemen make assertions of that kind, they must either presume that the majority of the members of this Convention are utterly ignorant of the history of their State, or that they have not got the nerve to stand up here and speak their honest sentiments.

The party in power in 1861, having the disposition to save this State, or to reconcile matters? Why, sir, I hold in my hand a book which I have always regarded and called "the Book of Treason," compiled by those men who were in authority in 1861, and who took bodily possession of Governor Hicks; the men who called the Legislature together, and who were ready with their bills of safety, and their militia bills, to put the State of Maryland into the hands of a self-constituted revolutionary committee, that